

**HEARING AND SPEECH EXAMINING BOARD  
MINUTES  
APRIL 20, 2009**

**PRESENT:** Okie Allen, HIS; Bruce Baier, Consumer Representative; Edward W. Korabic, PhD; Alma Peters, MS, MBA; Marilyn S. Worker, PhD; Peter J. Zellmer, AuD and David Freidland, MD

**EXCUSED:** Thomas Fisher, AuD; Terrence Greenleaf, HIS

**STAFF:** Tom Ryan, Bureau Director; Ruby Jefferson-Moore, Legal Counsel; Karen Rude-Evans, Bureau Assistant; and DRL Staff

**GUESTS:** Doug Johnson, Joe Hulwi, Arlene Hulwi, Scott Larson and Scott Chase, Wisconsin Alliance of Hearing Professionals; Jim Ogurek, International Hearing Society; Laura Feldhake, WSHA-P

**CALL TO ORDER**

Okie Allen, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. A quorum of 7 members was present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Amendments to the Agenda:**

- Case closing report

**MOTION:** Peter Zellmer moved, seconded by Marilyn Worker, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2009**

**Corrections:**

- Page 1 – Change date of meeting to January 26, 2009
- Page 2 –Under BOARD APPOINTMENTS, Screening Panel- add an “s” to Alma Peters
- Page 4 – Under RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION, insert “Worker” after Marilyn
- Page 5 – Under SUZETTE STEINBACH-MINEAU, In the first motion, delete “Motion carried unanimously.”

**MOTION:** Peter Zellmer moved, seconded by Marilyn Worker, to approve the minutes of January 26, 2009 as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

### **Introduction of New Division Administrator, Gail Sumi**

Gail Sumi introduced herself to the Board and gave a brief history of her background. The Board welcomed Ms. Sumi and looks forward to working with her.

### **Appointment of Education Liaison**

Jill Remy, Director of the Exams and Education Office, has asked all boards to appoint a liaison who would be available for continuing education issues. Okie Allen agreed to be the liaison.

### **Budget Report**

The Governor has in his budget a proposal that would create a separate Medical Examining Board within the Department and would add staff. This would affect the Medical Examining Board and all affiliated boards and councils, including physical therapy, occupational therapy, perfusionists, athletic trainers, dietitians, physician assistants and respiratory care practitioners. Hopefully the budget will be passed by July 1, 2009.

### **Board Appointments**

Several board members appointments are expiring this year. Tom Ryan will contact the Governor's office to check on the progress of finding replacements for the board.

### **Staff Changes**

Board Services has several vacancies at this time. Mr. Ryan introduced Karen Rude-Evans who will be taking minutes until a permanent replacement can be found. Kim Wood was also introduced and will also be taking minutes.

## **MOTION TO DESIGNATE HEARINGS AND APPEALS ATTORNEY AS ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE**

**MOTION:** Alma Peters moved, seconded by Marilyn Worker, to designate an attorney who is employed by the Division of Hearings and Appeals, Wisconsin Department of Administration, to serve as an Administrative Law Judge to preside over Class 1 license denial hearings and Class 2 disciplinary proceedings, pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § RL 1.08 and § RL 2.10. This designation is in addition to the designation already provided for in Wis. Admin. Code § RL 1.08 and § RL 2.10. Motion carried unanimously.

## **WISCONSIN ALLIANCE OF HEARING PROFESSIONALS REPORT**

Okie Allen had no activities to report to the Board. Doug Johnson, Executive Director and General Counsel, Wisconsin Alliance of Hearing Professionals, addressed the Board with concerns regarding the proposed AuD legislation. Mr. Johnson provided a handout to the Board with suggested changes to the proposed legislation.

**PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED STIPULATION, FINAL DECISION AND ORDER IN  
THE MATTER OF JAMES M. GOTT**

Attorney Gilbert Lubcke presented the proposed stipulation, final decision and order in the matter of James M. Gott.

**EXAMINATION RETAKE DATA – GAIL PIZARRO, DRL OFFICE OF EDUCATION  
AND EXAMINATIONS**

The Board reviewed the examination retake data information provided in the agenda packet. Gail Pizarro was unavailable to meet with the Board.

**CONCERNS REGARDING HEARING AID DISCOUNT GROUPS AND INSURANCE  
COMPANIES – BOARD DISCUSSION**

Laura Feldhake, WSHA-P, addressed the Board regarding concerns with the increasing practice of insurance companies contracting with out of state hearing and discount groups to provide services to their members. Some of the discount groups are offering individuals the opportunity to submit results and impressions directly to them thereby eliminating the need for a licensed audiologist or hearing instrument specialist.

Okie Allen commented that on a daily basis the internet is changing the issues that are presented regarding practice and professions.

**WISCONSIN ALLIANCE OF HEARING PROFESSIONALS (WAHP) PROPOSAL FOR  
CONTINUING EDUCATION – BOARD REVIEW**

Doug Johnson appeared before the Board to discuss WAHP's proposal for continuing education.

**MOTION:** Peter Zellmer moved, seconded by Edward Korabic, to table the discussion to the next board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**DISCUSSION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ACTION RELATING TO PROPOSED  
REVISIONS TO WIS. STATS., CH. 459 (LRB-1345/1)**

The Board had a lengthy discussion regarding the proposed changes to Chapter 459.

**MOTION:** Peter Zellmer moved, seconded by David Friedland, to make a legislative request to change the educational requirement for audiologist to require a doctoral degree or equivalency and to eliminate the Council on Speech Language Pathology and Audiology. Edward Korabic – no. Alma Peters abstained. Motion carried.

## **2009 SENATE BILL 27**

Noted.

### **SUMMARY REPORTS OF PENDING COURT CASES, DISCIPLINARY CASES, ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND LEGISLATION**

Noted.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

Noted.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

**MOTION:** Peter Zellmer moved, seconded by Edward Korabik, to convene to closed session to deliberate on cases following hearing (Wis. Stat. § 19.85 (1) (a)); consider closing disciplinary investigation(s) with administrative warning(s) (Wis. Stat. § 19.85 (1) (b) and Wis. Stat. § 440.205); consider individual histories or disciplinary data (Wis. Stat. § 19.85 (1) (f)) and to confer with legal counsel (Wis. Stat. § 19.85 (1) (g)). Motion carried unanimously in a roll call vote. Okie Allen-yes; Edward Korabic-yes; Bruce Baier-yes; Alma Peters-yes; Marilyn Worker-yes and Peter Zellmer-yes.

Open session recessed at 3:39 p.m.

### **RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION**

**MOTION:** Peter Zellmer moved, seconded by Marilyn Worker, to reconvene into open session. Motion carried unanimously.

Open session reconvened at 3:47 p.m.

### **VOTING ON ITEMS DELIBERATED ON IN CLOSED SESSION**

#### **JAMES M. GOTT**

**MOTION:** Alma Peters moved, seconded by David Freidland, to adopt the findings of fact, conclusions of law, final decision and order in the matter regarding James M. Gott. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Consulting with legal counsel:**

Noted.

**Application Issues**

None.

**RATIFICATION OF EXAMINATION SCORES**

**MOTION:** Peter Zellmer moved, seconded by Marilyn Workinger, to ratify exam scores from the April 24, 2009 examinations. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Peter Zellmer moved, seconded by Edward Korabic, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.